

DRAFT

WASTE STRATEGY



FOR ESSEX

2024 - 2054

RETHINKING
OUR WASTE

Working together for Essex

Essex County Council,
Essex District, Borough
and City Councils

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Waste Strategy for Essex sets out the vision and objectives of the Essex Waste Partnership (EWP). It provides a framework detailing how we will manage the waste that is produced by homes and businesses in the county for the next 30 years.

WHAT IS A WASTE STRATEGY AND WHY DO WE NEED ONE?

The previous waste strategy for Essex was developed in 2007 and while much of it is relevant today, a great deal has changed since then. It is important we refresh and review our plans to ensure we have the right approaches to deliver the best outcomes for Essex.

This new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) covering the period up to 2054, brings a new focus on how we will deliver an effective, efficient and sustainable service for the future. Following the Environment Act 2021, national policy and the findings of the Essex Climate Action Commission 2020, the new strategy updates the EWP’s approach to reducing the impact that waste management has on climate change. The strategy is research-based and sets out the reasons for our approach, the principles of what we will do and the targets we will strive to meet.



The Essex Waste Partnership is made up of the 12 district, borough and city councils in Essex and the county council. The partnership aims to ensure cost-efficient and sustainable waste management across the county.



THE ESSEX WASTE PARTNERSHIP’S VISION

RETHINKING OUR WASTE

We aspire to be a zero-waste county. By working together we will reduce waste to protect the environment and conserve resources.

OUR STRATEGY



Zero waste in Essex means maximising the reuse, recycling and recovery of resources, rather than treating them as waste.

This strategy commits the Essex Waste Partnership to work together to minimise the impact that waste management has on the environment, while offering value for money to the taxpayer. The best way of doing this is through embracing the circular economy. This means minimising our waste, recycling more and rethinking how we will manage the waste that cannot be recycled to conserve resources. Through this strategy the members of the EWP will coordinate the design and delivery of services to achieve the vision, targets and ambitions of this strategy. The EWP will support residents and businesses to reduce their waste and recycle more. The EWP will be an active voice in influencing government and encouraging businesses to adopt this approach. By setting ambitious and measurable targets, residents will be able to hold the partnership to account for achieving our aims.

OUR PRIORITIES

To deliver our vision, the EWP has identified the following priorities for Essex:

Move to a circular economy

- Realise the opportunities arising from the circular economy model that will bring wider benefits to Essex.

Deliver the waste hierarchy

- Deliver a system that puts waste reduction at its centre.
- Work together to encourage and support reuse and repair initiatives.
- Increase recycling by delivering comprehensive services and supporting residents to recycle as much as possible.
- Use technologies for the treatment of food and non-recyclable waste that aim to minimise the environmental impact of waste and maximise energy and material recovery.

Collaborate and innovate

- Innovate and work collaboratively with each other and with government, business and institutions to create a more sustainable waste system.

Educate and engage

- Listen to residents and deliver information and initiatives to encourage changes in attitudes and behaviour to reduce waste and recycle more.

OUR TARGETS, AMBITIONS AND ASPIRATIONS



The targets are things we are committed to doing. They are the government's current national targets and are the minimum we need to achieve.



We would like to go beyond these targets. Therefore we have added further ambitions and aspirations to help us have a bigger impact more quickly.

Net zero greenhouse gas emissions



We will contribute to reducing the county's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

Waste reduction



We will halve the amount of residual waste produced per person by 2042.



We aim to reduce waste by 10% by 2030.



We aspire that Essex will be a zero waste county by 2055.

Recycling



We will reuse, recycle, or compost 65% of waste by 2035.



We aim to reuse, recycle or compost at least 70% of waste by 2030.

Waste disposal



We will send no more than 10% of waste to landfill by 2035.



We aim to send zero waste to landfill by 2030.

Collection Services



We will ensure that all Essex residents have access to separate food waste collections by 2026.



We will ensure that all Essex residents have access to comprehensive recycling services for plastic, paper and card, metal, glass, food and garden waste, by 2026.

The EWP will create plans, publish our progress and regularly review this strategy to ensure it is fit for purpose. The EWP will seek further involvement from residents throughout the life of this strategy.

2. WHY DO WE NEED TO ACT?

RETHINKING OUR WASTE


We aspire to be a zero waste county. By working together we will reduce waste, protect the environment and conserve resources.

In Essex, we need to rethink waste to meet our ambitious targets designed to minimise the environmental impact and cost of waste management.

Several drivers will influence what we need to do:

- climate change
- the circular economy
- we have too much waste
- people and lifestyles
- cost and affordability
- managing what can't be recycled
- government legislation

NO TIME TO WASTE



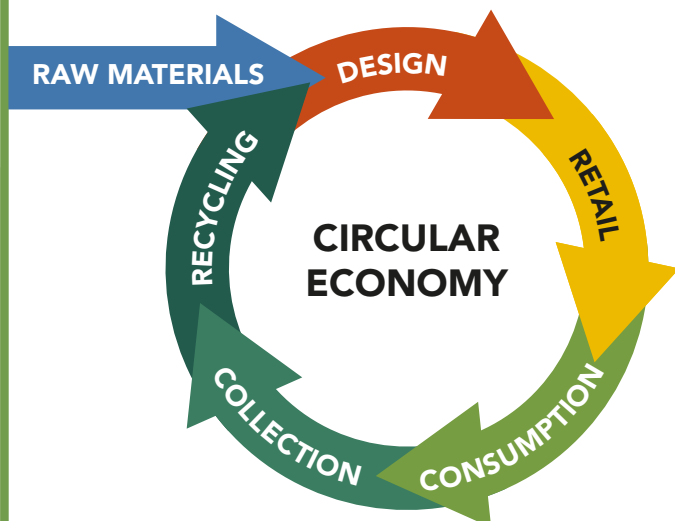
CLIMATE CHANGE

A significant climate change challenge lies ahead. We need to take action now to address the impacts of climate change and achieve the goal of Essex becoming a net zero county by 2050.

Waste management is a major contributor to climate change and is currently responsible for about 4% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. Improving environmental efficiency by making different choices about how we collect and treat waste will help reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions generated. Waste prevention can also deliver benefits by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in other sectors, such as agriculture, transport and manufacturing.

THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The best way to deliver change is to move towards a circular economy where our finite resources are conserved and used efficiently. Most products are still designed and created using a linear economy model where resources are taken, manufactured, used and disposed of. We have moved into a recycling economy where a proportion of materials are recycled but not retained at their highest quality.



The transition to a circular economy requires us all to rethink how resources are valued and managed. The model relies on designing products that are durable, easy to maintain and repair. This encourages and enables individuals to reuse products many times. Finally, products should be designed to enable straightforward recycling when they can no longer be reused or repaired.

WE HAVE TOO MUCH WASTE

Despite improvements to recycling services and greater awareness about the need to reduce, reuse and recycle we still produce too much waste. Although we have increased the proportion of waste recycled from 21% in 2000/01 to 52% in 2020/21 this has plateaued over recent years and in some areas is falling. We also continue to produce more waste than other areas in the country. A significant change is needed to achieve our targets. Although we need to recycle more, we also need to address the problem that we create too much waste.

To read more about where we are now, visit [Appendix 1: Current performance summary and key data](#)



PEOPLE AND LIFESTYLES

Residents have told us they are becoming more concerned about climate change and the environment. They want to see real change from businesses to help them reduce their waste.

An increasing number of smaller properties and flats – with limited space and facilities for recycling – will require us to consider the future design of waste collection services.

Multi-generational living and an ageing population may also impact both waste collection and the types of waste we need to manage. Overall, the population in Essex is forecast to grow by 6% from around 1.5 million to 1.6 million. Higher population levels equal greater amounts of waste produced and disposed of in the county.

It is important that waste services respond to these trends and changing attitudes and behaviours, so we can deliver improvements in the way we manage waste.



COST AND AFFORDABILITY

If we avoid producing waste altogether or recycle it, it is much cheaper than trying to treat or dispose of it. Waste generated by Essex residents costs the taxpayer more than £130 million a year. Without changing how we operate, waste management will cost more in future. All council budgets are facing significant pressures and this compels us to look at what we do and to consider whether we should do things differently.



MANAGING WHAT CAN'T BE RECYCLED

Essex still relies too heavily on landfill as the main method for disposing of waste. In 2022 we sent around 350,000 tonnes of residents' waste to landfill.

Even if we achieve our reduction and recycling targets, we will still have large amounts of non-recyclable waste. It is important we have a suitable approach for this. Landfill is the least preferred option and we must act now to ensure that the impact of waste disposal is minimised for future generations.



350,000 tonnes of residents' waste is taken to landfill sites per year – that's almost as heavy as the Empire State building in New York.

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

In recent years, the government has introduced new policy and legislation, the most important being the Environment Act 2021, to guide the management of waste and help us realise the benefits of a circular economy. Although these measures will take time to be fully embedded – and further changes are expected – they will change the type and amount of waste we manage and place new requirements on councils and businesses.

The government's legislative and policy changes will help the UK transition to a more circular economy by:

- encouraging residents to reduce and recycle their waste
- incentivising businesses that use packaging to design out waste and take greater responsibility for the environmental impact of their packaging
- promoting closed-loop recycling

To read more about relevant policy and legislation, visit **Appendix 4: Summary of national policy & legislation**

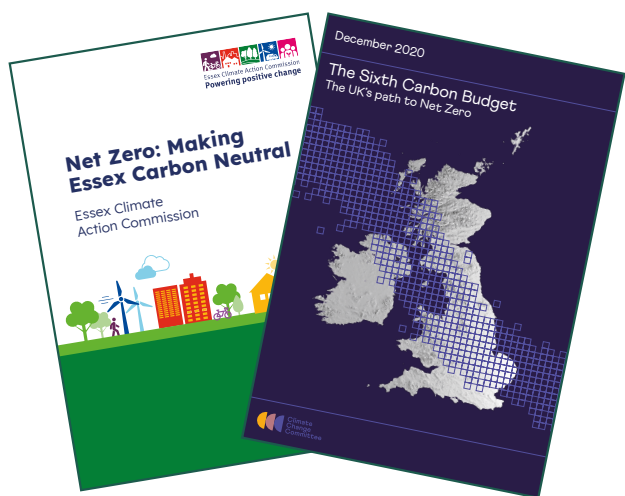


3. WHAT DOES OUR RESEARCH TELL US?

To develop this draft strategy, the Essex Waste Partnership (EWP) has considered a range of research to help inform our priorities and to test the deliverability of our vision, targets and ambitions.

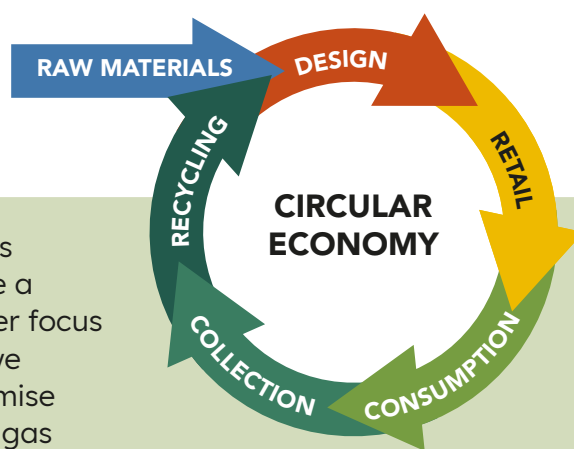
TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face, both globally and locally. The Climate Change Committee (CCC), an independent body that advises government and the Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC) agree that changing waste management approaches can have a significant impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



The CCC report can be found at: www.theccc.org.uk

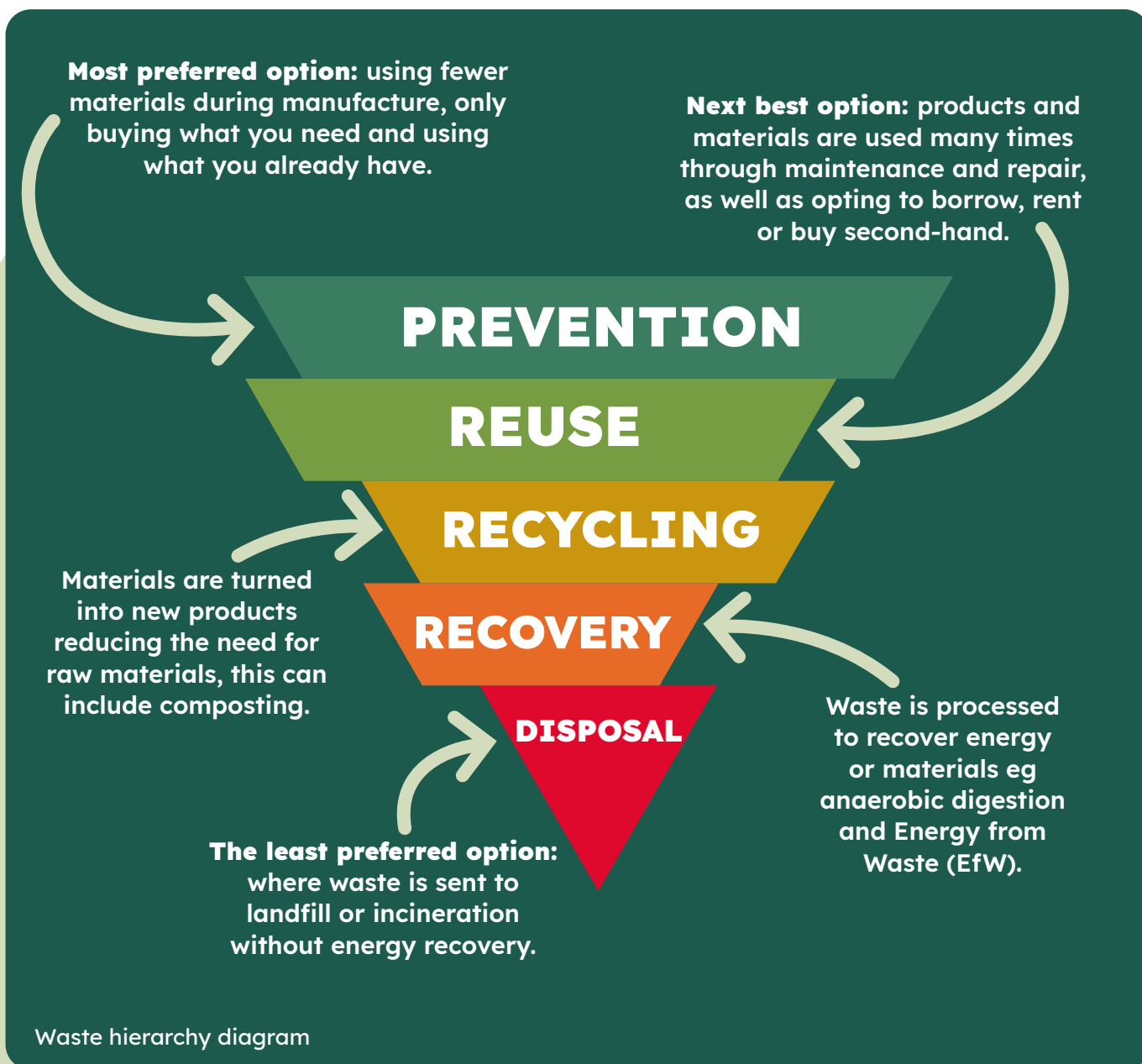
The ECAC Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral Report, includes several policy statements on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the waste sector. www.essexclimate.org.uk/reports



The EWP has reviewed these reports and recognises that reducing greenhouse gas emissions will require a transformational approach in waste. A much greater focus is needed on delivering a circular economy where we use resources efficiently, minimise waste and maximise recycling. These studies also recognise greenhouse gas emissions are impacted by the composition of waste and the type of waste treatment used. It is important that we send less waste to disposal, phase out the use of landfill and reduce the amount of biodegradable and plastic waste sent for recovery and disposal. The use of Energy from Waste (EfW) to treat residual waste will be required. Energy from Waste is a recovery process that takes residual waste and turns it into electricity. However, these facilities need to be correctly and flexibly sized, efficient and designed with emerging technologies in mind, to ensure we further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve efficiency in the future.

THE WASTE HIERARCHY

We are committed to managing waste in an efficient way that reduces the environmental impacts. The waste hierarchy is a legal framework that ranks waste management options according to what is better for the environment. The waste hierarchy ranks waste prevention as having the least impact and disposal having the most. In line with the waste hierarchy, products and materials should be kept in use, recycled when they are no longer useable and only sent for recovery or disposal as a last resort.



Adopting the waste hierarchy will ensure we take the correct decisions about waste and the services we develop.

Reducing waste through prevention and increasing reuse and recycling will bring benefits to environmental sustainability by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, through economic opportunities and efficient, value-for-money service delivery.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE INSIGHT

We have used national and local research on current attitudes and behaviours towards recycling and waste to inform our priorities, targets and ambitions.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) Recycling Tracker Report (Autumn 2022) available at www.wrap.org.uk/resources/report/recycling-tracker-report-autumn-2022 provides insights through an annual survey of UK recycling attitudes, knowledge and behaviour. The research shows that recycling is a day-to-day activity for most citizens. However, opportunities are missed to recycle common items and many people place items in the recycling that are not accepted. Better communications help to increase correct use of recycling services.



In 2022, the EWP commissioned research on Essex residents’ attitudes and behaviours to waste and recycling, prevention and reuse. The findings showed that the impact of waste on the environment is not fully understood. Many residents find reducing their waste difficult and want to see real change from businesses and the wider economy – for example, to change the amount of packaging used. However, almost all residents told us they had recently engaged in some form of reuse or repair, often using online marketplaces. Using the waste hierarchy to explain the priorities for waste reduction, recycling and recovery – and clearly stating the environmental impact of waste and benefits of waste reduction – will be important to future information and education programmes.

For full details of the research undertaken by the EWP, “Resident attitudes towards waste and recycling” visit [Appendix 9](#).

SMALL CHANGES, BIG DIFFERENCE



SYSTEMS MODELLING

The EWP has completed systems modelling activity to look at the type and volume of waste currently in Essex, how this may change in the future and different ways of managing waste. The systems modelling has examined waste collection and disposal methods and the environmental and cost implications of alternative scenarios.

The systems modelling shows that although the EWP’s draft strategy is ambitious, the targets are achievable. Further opportunities exist in Essex to reduce waste and recycle more, providing residents and business are fully engaged and services are well designed. However, the systems modelling shows non-recyclable waste will continue to be produced. The methods for dealing with non-recyclable waste are limited and landfill is not a viable long-term solution.

This systems modelling has helped to inform the priorities, targets and ambitions within the draft strategy. We will need to undertake further detailed work as part of any future service design changes and decision making.

Further details of the systems modelling undertaken by the partnership can be found at **Appendix 5: Executive Summary of Technical Options** and **Appendix 6: Full report on Technical Options**

The partnership has undertaken a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on this strategy. The purpose of a SEA is to evaluate the likely effects of a strategy to ensure environmental considerations are incorporated into planning and decision making. Our approach to the SEA process can be found at **Appendix 7: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report** and **Appendix 8: Strategic Environmental Report (SEA) - Full report**.



RESEARCH FINDINGS

The key findings of our research and analysis are that:

- although our targets and ambitions are challenging, they can be achieved if councils, residents and businesses all play their part
- following the waste hierarchy and embracing a circular economy is the best approach to minimise the environmental impact of managing Essex’s waste
- supporting residents and businesses to reduce and reuse is essential to achieving our environmental ambitions and tackling rising costs
- collecting a comprehensive range of recyclables from all households is necessary if we are to reach our recycling targets and that these services should be accessible for residents and enable the collection of high-quality materials for recycling
- offering a comprehensive range of recycling services to businesses will be necessary to reduce the environmental impact of business waste in Essex
- recycling garden waste into compost and recovering energy and materials from unavoidable food waste, is the best approach for these material streams
- although we can recycle more, we cannot recycle everything
- some non-recyclable waste will persist and this has the biggest impact on the environment, as well as costing the most to deal with
- we need to design our future waste collection services to reduce the amount of non-recyclable waste
- landfill is not a long-term option for non-recyclable waste – being environmentally the worst option and likely to continue to cost more than other waste management options
- once we have reduced, reused and recycled all we can, using Energy from Waste (EfW) with heat capture to recover energy is likely to be the best remaining option for what is left
- taking opportunities to decarbonise waste management operations and treatment technologies will further reduce the climate impact of managing Essex’s waste

New research and best practice will emerge over time and the EWP will carry out further research in future reviews of this strategy and the planning that will sit alongside it.

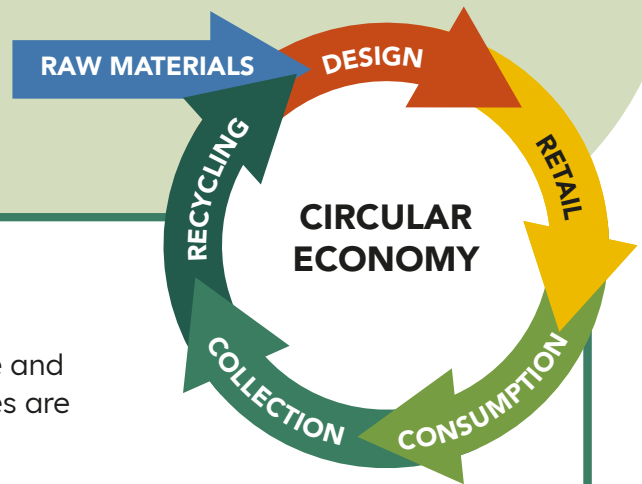


4. WHAT IS OUR APPROACH?

Our approach to addressing the waste management challenge and to achieve the vision, targets and ambitions of the Essex Waste Partnership (EWP) is built upon:

- supporting the move to a circular economy
- services that deliver the waste hierarchy
- driving down cost and environmental impacts
- partnership working to maximise the impact of our work
- supporting residents to reduce their waste and recycle more

The EWP is committed to continuously reviewing good practice to inform our approach and publishing our plans, progress and performance.



MOVE TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The best way to deliver change is to rethink our waste and embrace a circular economy where our finite resources are conserved and used efficiently.

There are clear environmental benefits from reducing waste during manufacture and by designing products that are easy to repair and recycle. The transition to a circular economy can also deliver opportunities for green growth and jobs.

Realise the opportunities arising from the circular economy model that will bring wider benefits to Essex.

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- encourage the growth of the green business sector and jobs in Essex to deal with waste in innovative ways
- support businesses to adopt circular economy principles and practices
- integrate the principles of the circular economy in council strategies and policies
- support communities to reduce their waste and reuse and repair more
- design services that increase closed-loop recycling where waste is collected and recycled to make the same type of product

DELIVER THE WASTE HIERARCHY

The best environmental approach to waste management is to apply the principles of the waste hierarchy. When designing services and making decisions, the EWP will apply the waste hierarchy prioritising waste prevention and minimising disposal. Applying the waste hierarchy will help us achieve our vision of a zero-waste county.

PREVENTION

The preferred option on the waste hierarchy is to prevent waste being produced in the first place.

Deliver a system that puts waste reduction at its centre.

Businesses can help by reducing the amount of packaging used in products and services to improve circularity and increase reuse of products and materials.

Residents can help by only buying what they need and reusing what they already have.

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- develop and deliver information and activities to help and inspire residents to reduce their waste
- design future waste collection services to encourage residents to reduce their waste
- work with government to seek stronger legislation and regulation to hold businesses to account
- support local businesses that operate sustainably or encourage waste reduction



Case study:

Through microgrants and promotional activity, we have supported local organisations, individuals and schools with projects that create or inspire a reduction in household waste. Refill shops, clothes swaps and repair services across the county are just some of the activities that have received support. These initiatives help and inspire people and communities to reduce their waste and be more sustainable.



REUSE

The next best option is to reuse products as much as possible.

Work together to encourage and support reuse and repair initiatives.

Businesses can help by designing products that are durable, easy to maintain and repair.

Residents can help by using repair services, borrowing rather than buying and renting or buying second-hand.

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- support business to deliver reuse and repair services
- support communities to deliver local reuse and repair initiatives
- develop and deliver information and activities to help and inspire residents to reuse and repair more
- support sharing platforms that promote reuse
- develop enhanced reuse services through Essex County Council’s network of recycling centres
- lobby government to accelerate a repair and reuse culture within business



Case study:

The Essex Waste Partnership has funded and promoted the provision of a free-to-use online platform for reuse that enables residents to give and get items for free. With nearly 90,000 members in Essex, this initiative helped households swap 14,000 items in 2022-23.



RECYCLING

If waste cannot be prevented or products and materials reused, then turning materials into new products by recycling is the next option on the waste hierarchy.

Increase recycling by delivering comprehensive services and supporting residents to recycle as much as possible.

Businesses can help by designing products and packaging using materials that can be easily recycled and by providing community collection points and return initiatives.

Residents can help by making full use of the recycling services provided at home, in community collection points, out and about and at recycling centres.



To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- provide collection services, recycling centres and local community recycling facilities that deliver high quality material for recycling
- ensure that all Essex residents have access to separate food waste collections
- ensure that all Essex residents have access to frequent and comprehensive services for recycling plastic, paper and cardboard, metal, glass, food and composting garden waste
- continue to explore extending the range of materials that can be collected for recycling
- ensure residents have the right information to recycle as much as possible
- continue to support home composting

Case study:

In January 2023 Maldon District Council launched a pilot for the collection of plastic bags and wrapping as part of normal recycling collections. Plastics such as plastic bags, confectionary wrappers, foil-lined packaging, plastic film, bubble wrap, pet food pouches and more will be collected from approximately 6,500 households. If successful, the service will expand to all residents in the district by 2025. This trial will help make recycling plastic bags and wrapping more convenient, increase the amount of plastic packaging recycled and reduce the amount of plastics going to landfill.



RECOVERY

The waste hierarchy shows that if we can't prevent, reuse or recycle, then recovery of energy and materials from the waste is preferable to disposal. By rethinking our waste and recovering energy, we can ensure that the climate impact of managing food and non-recyclable waste is minimised and reduce our reliance on disposal by landfill.

Use technologies for the treatment of food and non-recyclable waste that aim to minimise the environmental impact of waste and maximise energy and material recovery.

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- reduce our reliance on disposal by landfill
- use anaerobic digestion as the most viable technology for the treatment of unavoidable food waste to recover energy and fertiliser
- use Energy from Waste (EfW) as the most viable technology for the treatment of residual waste to recover energy and materials
- aim to capture and use heat from Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities to improve the efficiency of treatment facilities for residual waste
- continue exploring new technologies to improve the efficiency of treatment facilities, such as carbon capture, utilisation and storage
- continue working to reduce the amount of plastic material in residual waste



Energy from Waste (EfW)

Energy from Waste is a recovery process that takes residual waste and turns it into electricity. Capturing and using the heat generated significantly increases the overall efficiency of the process and the environmental benefits.

Case study:

If you recycle food waste in your kitchen caddy, we send it to anaerobic digestion plants. Recycling food creates renewable energy for homes and businesses and fertiliser for agriculture. Food recycling also eliminates greenhouse gas emissions released by food waste in landfill.



Collaborate and innovate

The partnership will look beyond the operation of collection and treatment services to identify innovative opportunities to reduce waste, recycle more and reduce the environmental impact of waste management. We can achieve more when we work together and in partnership with others, learning from each other and trying new things.

Innovate and work collaboratively with each other and with government, business and institutions to create a more sustainable waste system.

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- work to reduce the carbon impact of waste operations by increasing use of alternative fuels for our vehicles and equipment and making waste transport routes as efficient as possible
- work together to make the network of recycling centres, waste transfer stations and depots as efficient as possible
- explore carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and carbon offsetting to mitigate unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions
- stay abreast of innovation, trends and examples of best practice to shape service design
- work together and maximise opportunities to increase recycling in public spaces and reduce litter
- be an active voice striving to shape government policy, legislation and regulation through engagement, consultations and lobbying
- work together to develop opportunities for employment, environmental benefit and reduced costs



Case study:

In 2023, the partnership is working together to tackle food waste. Roughly 25% of waste thrown away in the general rubbish bin is food. Throwing away food that could have been eaten adds £60 a month to the average food shopping bill. Not only is this a waste of money but it also damages the environment. Funded and delivered by the partnership, households in Essex will receive support to reduce food waste and recycle more.

Through the year-long Love Essex, Love Food campaign, the partnership is providing ideas and inspiration to help residents reduce food waste at home. By replacing lost food caddies, providing a roll of free caddy liners and providing information and tips, the partnership aims to increase the proportion of food waste recycled. We have also secured long-term treatment options for separately collected food recycling, so we can generate renewable energy from this waste.

Educate and engage

Supporting residents with information and education that inspires changes in attitudes and adoption of new behaviours is essential to achieving our vision for a zero-waste county.

Listen to residents and deliver information and initiatives that encourage changes in attitudes and behaviour to reduce waste and recycle more.

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- engage regularly with residents to understand barriers, improve service design and increase participation in waste prevention and recycling services
- examine the composition of recycling and waste to identify which initiatives to target and how to better design services
- provide service information and develop and deliver a programme of activities and education to embed waste as an environmental issue and inspire residents to make changes



Case study:

The Love Essex brand created for the Essex Waste Partnership enables the partner councils to deliver better results for residents through cost effective campaigns and services. With consistent messages, the Love Essex campaigns and services inspire behaviour change with the goal of reducing waste, recycling more and making Essex a better place to live.



RESEARCH, PLAN AND PERFORMANCE MONITOR



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We would like to go beyond these targets. Therefore we have added further ambitions and aspirations to help us have a bigger impact more quickly.

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We will ensure that all Essex residents have access to comprehensive recycling services for plastic, paper and card, metal, glass, food and garden waste, by 2026.

We know our targets and goals are ambitious and we expect our progress towards achieving them to fluctuate and to take time to accelerate. However, we want residents to be able to hold the partnership to account for achieving our aims, therefore we will:

- create action plans to set out clear milestones and pathways to delivering our vision, targets and ambitions
- adopt best practice indicators to monitor performance and track progress
- review and publish performance and progress annually against the vision, targets and ambitions of this strategy

We recognise things will change during the life of this strategy. New national policies and legislation will arise. Waste composition and the volume of our waste will be different. New technologies will emerge and our attitudes to waste will change. As a result, this strategy and the services and initiatives delivered by the EWP should be updated to reflect this.

The EWP will seek further involvement from residents throughout the life of this strategy. The EWP will comprehensively review this strategy every five years to ensure we are aligned with any changes in national policy and legislation, trends in waste generation and the development of new approaches and technologies.



5. CONSULTATION AND NEXT STEPS

This document is a draft version of the Waste Strategy for Essex 2024-2054.

On behalf of the Essex Waste Partnership (EWP), Essex County Council is facilitating a consultation asking for views and feedback from residents, communities, businesses and councils that use the services or are affected by the proposals in this strategy.

WHAT IS A CONSULTATION?

Consultations are a way for you to tell us your views about a proposed project or change to services. Public participation is very important to how we develop our services, projects and policies. Feedback is carefully considered and can have a big effect on the direction we take.

This consultation on the draft Waste Strategy for Essex 2024-2054 and The Strategic Environmental Assessment is carried out in line with the best practice guidelines from the Consultation Institute (see The Consultation Charter at www.consultationinstitute.org) and the Gunning Principles at www.local.gov.uk.

Visit www.consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation where you will find the draft strategy documents and the Public Consultation Questionnaire. You can also read copies in your local library. The questionnaire is available for 10 weeks. If you wish to request another format of the strategy and questionnaire, please email wastestrategyforessex@essex.gov.uk or call 0345 603 7625.

The consultation period will open on 13 September and closes on 22 November 2023. Paper copies will be accepted via post for a further five days, closing on 29 November 2023.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A summary report of the consultation feedback will be published on Citizen Space after consultation is complete and responses have been analysed.

The feedback obtained from responses to the Public Consultation Questionnaire and other consultation mechanisms will be used to develop and publish a final version of the Waste Strategy for Essex and Strategic Environmental Assessment. The councils in the EWP will take local decisions on adoption of the final version of the strategy.

The Waste Strategy for Essex will act as a framework for waste management in Essex informing the design of local collection services and disposal arrangements. Collection arrangements will continue to be managed by district, borough and city councils in a way that is appropriate to their residents and communities. The EWP will seek further involvement from residents throughout the life of this strategy.

6. GLOSSARY

Anaerobic digestion (AD)

A process where biodegradable material (typically food) is enclosed in a container and the oxygen is removed, which encourages the material to break down. The process produces biogas, a renewable energy which can be used to generate heat and electricity and it can produce solids/liquid known as digestate which can be used as fertiliser and compost.

Carbon capture, utilisation and storage

Carbon capture, utilisation and storage is a technology to prevent carbon emissions produced by industrial activity being released into the atmosphere. Carbon captured is either stored deep underground where it cannot enter the atmosphere, or used in other industrial processes.

Carbon offsetting

Carbon offsetting can help individuals and organisations to compensate for any emissions they cannot avoid or reduce by paying for an equivalent amount of emissions to be reduced or removed elsewhere.

Circular economy

A circular economy is an economic system designed with the intention that maximum use is extracted from resources and minimum waste is generated for disposal.

Climate change

Climate change refers to a change in the state of the climate, causing changes in weather patterns on a global scale and for an extended period. Effects include changes in rainfall patterns, sea level rise, potential droughts, habitat loss and heat stress.

Closed-loop recycling

Closed-loop recycling is a process where waste is collected and recycled to make the same type of product. For example, glass bottles can be remade into more glass bottles.

Composting (windrow)

Shredded waste is placed in elongated heaps, called windrows, normally outdoors. The windrows are turned mechanically periodically to push air into the composting waste. The process takes at least 16 weeks. At the end, the compost weighs around half of the original waste and is distributed for agricultural and domestic use.

Decarbonisation

Decarbonisation is the term used for removal or reduction of carbon dioxide (CO₂) output into the atmosphere. We achieve decarbonisation by switching to low carbon energy sources derived from fossil fuels.

DEFRA – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The government department responsible for the environment, food and rural affairs. DEFRA's remit within the environment includes waste management.

Energy from Waste (EfW) with heat capture

Energy from Waste is a recovery process that takes residual waste and turns it into electricity. Capturing and using the heat generated significantly increases the overall efficiency of the process and the environmental benefits.

Essex Waste Partnership (EWP)

A partnership comprising all 12 district, borough and city councils and the county council in Essex (see **Appendix 12: Essex Waste Partnership Terms of Reference**). The partnership was set up to ensure cost-efficient and sustainable waste management across the county.

Fossil fuels

Fuels such as coal, petroleum and natural gas, which contain carbon and release energy in combustion.

Greenhouse gas

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to climate change. This causes the greenhouse effect. Water vapour, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane and ozone are the primary greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Home composting

The manufacture of compost material at home (from the breakdown of food and garden waste) using a compost heap, a purpose-made container or a wormery.

Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS)

A JMWMS is a joint strategy which sets out how county, district, borough and city councils will work together to manage waste. It is a legal requirement under the Waste Emissions and Trading Act 2003.

Landfill or landfill sites

Land in which waste is deposited, often disused quarries.

Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW)

Local Authority Collected Waste is household waste and any other waste that is collected for treatment and disposal by a local authority. LACW comprises of waste from households, recycling centres for household waste, street sweepings and local authority-collected commercial waste.

Non-recyclable waste

Materials that are not collected for recycling at kerbside, recycling centres, through take back schemes or at community collection points.

Procurement

The process of buying goods, works and services from third parties and in-house providers. This refers to all stages of the process from identifying what is needed, to the end of a service contract or the end of the useful life of an asset.

Recovery

In recovery, a waste treatment process is used to recover energy and new raw materials from the waste. Recovery waste treatment processes include anaerobic digestion and Energy from Waste (EfW).

Recycling

The reprocessing of waste materials into the same products or different ones.

Residual waste

Waste that is not reused, recycled, composted or anaerobically digested.

Resources

Materials that can be used to create products. Resources can be virgin materials or secondary raw materials.

Reuse

In the commercial sector - using products designed to be used many times, such as reuseable packaging.

In homes, reuse includes buying products that use refillable containers or reuse plastic bags. It contributes to sustainable development and can save raw materials, energy and transport costs.

SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment

SEA is the environmental assessment of plans, programmes, or strategies. It seeks to provide high level protection for the environment; integrate the environment and sustainable development into planning processes; promote sustainable development; and promote a more open, transparent and evidence-based planning culture.

Waste hierarchy

The waste hierarchy sets out the order in which options for waste management should be considered based on environmental impact. It is a legal framework that has become a cornerstone of sustainable waste management.

Waste reduction (waste prevention)

Action to prevent waste being produced to reduce or minimise the amount of waste requiring final disposal. Minimising waste saves on collection and disposal costs and helps to reduce the demand for raw materials.

Waste treatment

The mechanical, chemical, thermal or biological processing of certain wastes to make them harmless, reduce volumes before landfilling or recycle them.

Zero waste

Zero waste means minimising the population's demand on primary resources and maximising the reuse, recycling and recovery of resources, rather than treating them as waste.

This information is issued by:
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Recycling and Waste

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